

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 02426 061001Z

13

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12

INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 MC-02 NSCE-00

ACDA-07 IO-13 PRS-01 ARA-06 USIE-00 (ISO) W

----- 022322

O R 060930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8988

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2426

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CM, UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENT ON CAMEROON'S FEAR OF ENCIRCLEMENT:

CAMEROON OFFERS SELF AS RELIABLE REGIONAL PARTNER OF US

REF: YAOUNDE 2417 (NOTAL)

1. AFTER FURTHER REFLECTION ON EBOUA'S PRESENTATION AND REQUESTS OF JULY 5, I HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT GURC HAS MORE SERIOUS INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS US THAN REFTEL MAY HAVE CONVEYED. I BELIEVE THAT AHIDJO, THROUGH EBOUA, WAS NOMINATIONG CAMEROON TO BE PRINCIPAL PARTNER OF US IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION.

2. REFTEL FAILED TO MENTION THAT EBOUA AT OUTSET OF HIS PRESENTATION PUT GURC'S CONCERN IN REGIONAL CONTEXT, SAYING "WE ARE WORRIED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA," WHICH ARE LEADING TO CAMEROON'S ISOLATION. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO CHARACTERIZE EACH COUNTRY OF REGION. IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED IN REFTEL, HE REFERRED TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IN NEGATIVE TERMS, AND SIMIARLY, THOUGH LESS EXPLICITLY, TO ZAIRE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED (PRO-WESTERN POLICIES AND OUTLOOK OF CAMEROON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 YAOUND 02426 061001Z

3. EBOUA TOLD ME THAT WHEN AND IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHOULD BECOME AVAILABLE IN RESPONSE TO GURC'S REQUESTS FOR ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, IT COULD PROVIDE PROJECTS, PLANS, AND REQUEST PACKAGES ON SHORT NOTICE. I HAVE NO DOUBT GURC COULD DO THIS, AND ITS PLANNING CAPACITY, AT LEAST ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE, IS GOOD. READINESS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC CONCRETE REQUESTS ALSO SUGGESTS THAT GURC HAS BEEN PREPARING YESTERDAY'S APPROACH FOR SOME TIME, AS ALSO INDICATED BY MARKED RECENT INCREASE IN OVERT FRIENDLINESS TOWARD US. I WAS INITIALLY PUZZLED BY TIMING, SINCE THIS MAJOR NOVEL APPROACH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE TO GOVERNOR SCRANTON WHEN HE CALLED ON AHIDJO JUNE 28. HOWEVER, EBOUA SAID THAT GURC UN PERM REP OYONO HAD TELEPHONED HIM ABOUT CUBAN TROOP STORY CIRCA THREE DAYS AGO, WHICH COINCIDES WITH JULY 2 WF REPORT OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS ON SIMILAR STORY. THIS MAY HAVE FINALLY PUSHED AHIDJO OVER BRINK OF, IN EFFECT, OFFERING CAMEROON AS PRINCIPAL PRO-AMERICAN PARTNER IN REGION.

4. THE "PARTNERSHIP" SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO ANY EARLY DRASTIC CHANGES IN CAMEROON'S OVERT BEHAVIOR, E.G. AT UN. ON CONTRARY, GURC MAY LEAN OVER BACKWARDS TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUS IN ORDER TO OFFSET RISK OF BEING OVER-IDENTIFIED WITH US. HOWEVER, ON REGIONAL ISSUES THAT MATTER TO GURC - E.G. SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, BULLYING BY NIGERIAAN OVERALL SECURITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA - CAMEROON COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE SOLIDLY IF DISCREETLY WITH US IN RETURN FOR REQUESTED ASSISTANCE.

5. I BELIEVE REQUEST SHOULD BE GIVEN VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. OFT-ITERATED THEME OF MY ANALYSIS OF EVOLUTUION OF REGION IS GREATER PROMISE OF CAMEROON THAN COUNTRIES COVERED BY ONE THOUSAND MILE RADIUS DRAWN AROUND ITS BORDERS, DUE TO AHIDJO'S SUCCESS IN INSTITUTIONALIZING GOVERNMENT. IF HE WERE TO DISAPPEAR TOMORROW, GOVERNMENT WOULD GO ON PRETTY MUCH AS BEFORE, BUT FOR THAT VERY REASON HE IS MUCH LESS LIKELY TO DISAPPEAR THAN HEADS OF STATE IN THREE TIERS OF COUNTRIES SURROUNDING CAMEROON, ABOUT ENCIRCLEMENT BY FIRST OF WHICH HE IS NOW WORRIED. IN MY PARA OVERVIEW I RECOMMENDED THAT ANY EXTRA DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR AID OR USIS IN REGION WOULD BRING BETTER RESULTS IF SPENT IN CAMEROON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 YAOUND 02426 061001Z

THAN NEIGHBORS. I STILL HOLD TO THAT VIEW, RE-ENFORCED BY GURC'S NEW OFFER TO GO INTO A KIND OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP WITH US.

6. TO THOSE WHO, LIKE ONE FORMER COLLEAGUE IN DEPARTMENT, VIEW THIS AS SPRINGING FROM LOCALITIS ON MY PART, I REPLY THAT I REGRET I HAVE ONLY ONE SUCH PROMISING LOCALE TO OFFER AS PARTNER TO MY COUNTRY. (I MAY, HOWEVER, BE SUFFERING FROM BICENTENNIALITIES.
)

THE REST OF THE REGION LOOKS BLEAKER EVERY MONTH, REGARDLESS OF
PERSPECTIVE - FROM WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, LONDON, OR YAOUNDE.
SPIRO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, COMMUNISM, NATIONAL SECURITY, POLITICAL PATRONAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976YAOUND02426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-0776
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760786/aaaacxwj.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 YAOUNDE 2417
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER COMMENT ON CAMEROON'S FEAR OF ENCIRCLEMENT: CAMEROON OFFERS SELF AS RELIABLE REGIONAL PARTNER OF US
TAGS: PFOR, CM, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006